

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF APRIL 20, 1915.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held April 20, 1915, at 8:15 P.M., in the American Museum of Natural History, President Dr. Raymond C. Osburn in the chair, with 18 members and two visitors present.

Mr. Dow for the Field Committee reported on the outing of April 11 at Central Park, L. I., mentioning especially the capture of *Tricrania sanguinipennis*. The proposed outing of May 31st at Coytesville was discussed and action postponed to the next meeting.

Mr. Davis exhibited and spoke of the "Orthoptera collected in Florida by Messrs. Mutchler and Watson," pointing out the characters of the two new species obtained, illustrated by figures drawn, in spite of illness, by Mr. Joutel, and the minor differences that characterized several other species in the Floridian part of their range.

Mr. Davis also exhibited and spoke of certain species of *Cicada* and their synonymy, pointing out the importance in classification of the anal plates and the tendency to always look at the wrong end of an insect exhibited in some of the descriptions.

His remarks will be printed in full in the JOURNAL.

The discussion that followed in which Dr. Osburn and Mr. Engelhardt took part brought out some of the differences between northern and southern Florida in the distribution of Orthoptera and the occurrence at Everglade of *Aplopus mayeri* Caudell, a species previously known from Tortugas only.

Mr. Woodruff under the title "New Homoptera in Local Fauna" exhibited and described a new species of Membracidae and the previously unknown male of another species, taken at Bronxville, dwelling particularly on the peculiar environment for each.

Dr. Osborn, Mr. Davis and Mr. Olsen, in discussing the paper, spoke of the real or apparent scarcity of males in certain groups of insects and the causes thereof.

Mr. Harris spoke of his recent trip southward, covering Fortress Monroe, Southern Pines, Columbia and Summerville, saying that though the season was everywhere backward and Cicindelidae scarce, he had succeeded in taking *C. vulgaris minor* and *C. rugifrons carolina* and thus extending their known range.

Mr. Harris also commented on the fact communicated by Mr. Lantz that at Washington, D. C., *C. sexguttata* is taken in the fall as well as in the early part of the year up to July, while on the Palisades he had never found it in the fall, though it has been taken at that season elsewhere in the vicinity of New York City and some specimens evidently live through the winter, after pupation in autumn, being found very early in the year under bark or stones.

Mr. Sherman spoke of a recent visit with Mr. Schwarz at his home on

17th St. in Washington, and his strong interest in current entomological events, recounting many of his comments. The number of melanic forms of Coccinellidæ from the northern boundary at Alaska, the changes in the fauna of Phoenix, Ariz., due to irrigation, and of the Florida Keys, due to commercial improvements, the difficulty of collecting at Lake Superior except on the beach, the damage to entomological collections from unfavorable environments, the praiseworthy tendency of modern writers to define genera more accurately, and the lamentable tendency of some to exalt type specimens at the expense of minuteness in description, were some of the topics discussed. The resemblance between *Dromius atriceps*, of which the type came from Bayou Sara, Louisiana, and additional specimens from Virginia Beach, and *Demetrius atricapillus*, as noted by Leconte (Trans. Am. Ent. Soc., VIII, 1880, p. 164) was particularly mentioned; and the admirable work of Adam Boving and others, especially Hyslop and Keakirt in tracing the biological history of obscure species received the highest praise. Mr. Sherman closed his remarks with some references to the disposal of the Asa Fitch collection and accompanying note books.

MEETING OF MAY 4, 1915.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held May 4, 1915, at 8:15 P. M., in the American Museum of Natural History, Vice-President H. G. Barber in the chair, with fourteen members and one visitor present.

The Curator reported the donation to the local collection of *Hylecoetus lugubris* Say, from Mr. R. P. Dow, the specimen having been caught April 18 at Beaver Swamp, near Coytesville, N. J., also thirty-one species from Mr. Leng.

Mr. Leng read from Prof. Bradley's letters the proposed itinerary of the mounted by Mr. Wunder and presented the manuscript of Mrs. Annie Trumbull Slosson's "A Few Memories" for publication in the JOURNAL.

Mr. Schaeffer exhibited *Eupsalis minuta* and the allied forms *lecontei* and trip to the western part of the State in June. Mr. Davis showed photographs *sallei* described by Power, stating that the first seemed northern in distribution, the second southern, while both were very close to the typical form. His remarks will be printed in the JOURNAL.

Mr. Engelhardt, under the title "Noctuidæ collected on Willow Bloom" spoke of the various methods he had employed in early spring collecting, the numbers in which some species had unexpectedly been obtained and particularly of some of the rarities included in the catch. He said that the electric lights, especially in country districts were productive; the running sap of tapped sugar maples, also birches and slippery elms, was also very attractive, clouds of moths rising on occasions from the natural bait offered by the sap; the beating of branches, to which last year's leaves still clung, into the umbrella was a third method which was more satisfactory in the rare species it yielded than in the number of specimens; but best of all he considered the visitation at night with a lantern of the Willow Bloom, or in its absence of other early

flowering shrubs, like the spice-bush. During the present spring such collecting had been practiced with marked success at Chickadee Farm, N. Y., four miles from Kent, Conn., and at Massapequa, L. I., with Mr. Doll, and on the West Hills, near Huntington, L. I., with Mr. Davis. Boxes of specimens from Mr. Engelhardt's and Mr. Davis's collection were exhibited, and the more remarkable species were pointed out. Mr. Engelhardt closed by commenting especially upon the habits of *Homoglaea hircina* and allied species, saying that while most of them seemed to be fall species, *H. hircina* was generally found in the spring.

Mr. Davis exhibited photographs of the Chichester Homestead, formerly known as the Inn of Peace and Plenty, at which he and Mr. Engelhardt boarded during their collecting between the West Hills and the Half Way Hollow Hills, with some of the characteristic scenes in the neighborhood, including the Cathedral Cedars, the Laurels, higher than a man, and a map of the region, showing its accessibility from either Huntington or Farmingdale, by trolley.

Mr. Davis also showed photograph of Messrs. Dow, Engelhardt and Nicolay, taken in the forest, ruined by fire, where *Tricrania sanguinipennis* was found; and the bound works of two of our members, Mr. Chas. Schaeffer and Dr. W. M. T. Forbes.

Mr. Dow spoke of "Indian Legends about Insects" showing how the conflict between man and animals arose and how the insects aided the latter and refused, and still refuse, to be governed by the truce afterwards arranged. He told also how the spiders figured in these legends; and how closely they appear to be connected with the superstitions of the negroes in Jamaica, relating in detail the story of Anansee and the black spiders into which his victims become changed.

Mr. Davis spoke of a greenish variety of *Cicindela tranquebarica* he had taken in the Half Way Hollow Hills and of a still greener one found by Mr. Schaeffer at Wyandanch; also of *Meloe americana* being found at night while hunting moths by light.

Mr. Schaeffer related his experiences in similar night collecting of beetles, saying that many species of *Listrochelus*, *Lachnosterna*, *Phytalus*, *Diploaxis*, *Anomala*, were thus obtained that were never or rarely seen by day. Sweeping just when the sun begins to go down or so-called "evening sweeping" he had also found an invaluable method of obtaining many of the small species he had recorded in Smith's List; the most convenient method being to use several bags so that each could be tied up when filled and examined at leisure later.

Mr. Davis spoke of "evening sweeping" being found on heavily overcast days all day long; but Mr. Schaeffer said that most of the species thus obtained, while numerous, would be diurnal species that had settled down on the vegetation in the absence of sunlight and not the nocturnal species, which would not come out until their usual hour.